

B.S.T.&G. FIRE DISTRICT

2026 Operating Levy

Informational briefing for member community officials

Berkshire Township · City of Sunbury · Trenton Township · Village of Galena

Christopher R. Kovach

Fire Chief



Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

District Profile



1,716

Emergency calls
2025

28,226

Residents served
*2026 DCRPC est.

2

Fire stations

5,000+

Training hours
2025

93.25%

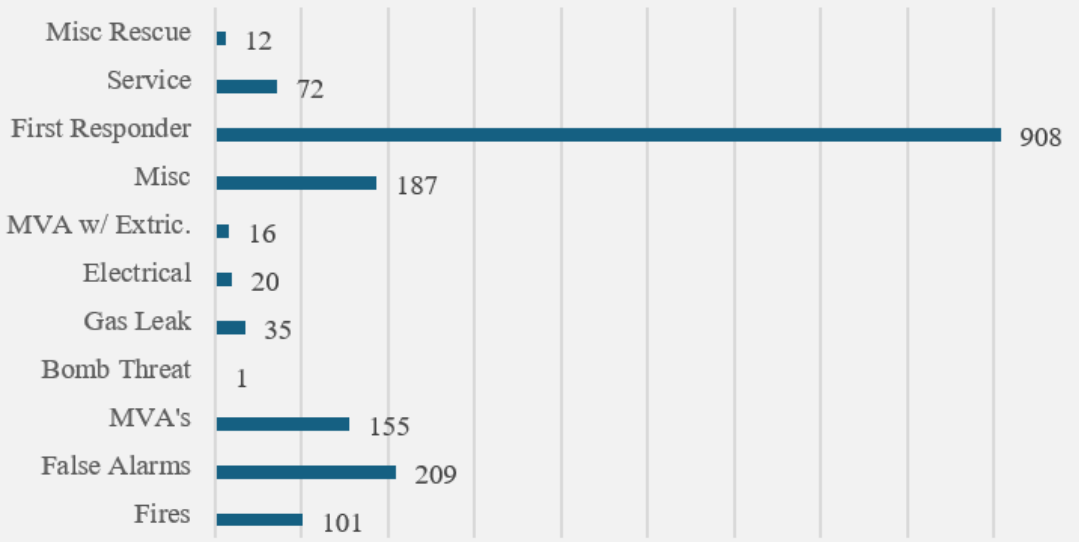
NFPA turnout
compliance

STAFFING OVERVIEW

- Three 24-hour shifts, each with 2 lieutenants and 5 full-time firefighter/EMTs
- Part-time Firefighters supplement vacancies and increase staffing.
- Daily staffing: 8 assigned between 2 stations, minimum of 6
 - 2026 average is 7
- 2 full-time fire safety inspectors/investigators
- One operating levy; no general fund revenue from the four member communities

**Note: Population was obtained through DCRPC 2026 Estimate*

2025 Incidents (1,716 total)





What is on the November 3 ballot

4.85

MILLS · RENEWAL
Continues the existing levy

+

2.50

MILLS · INCREASE
New funding

=

7.35

**MILLS · TOTAL VOTED
RATE**
5-year operating levy

5 years

Levy term

2027

First due

\$6,071,628

Est. annual collection

COST PER \$100,000 OF MARKET VALUE

\$176 per year, gross

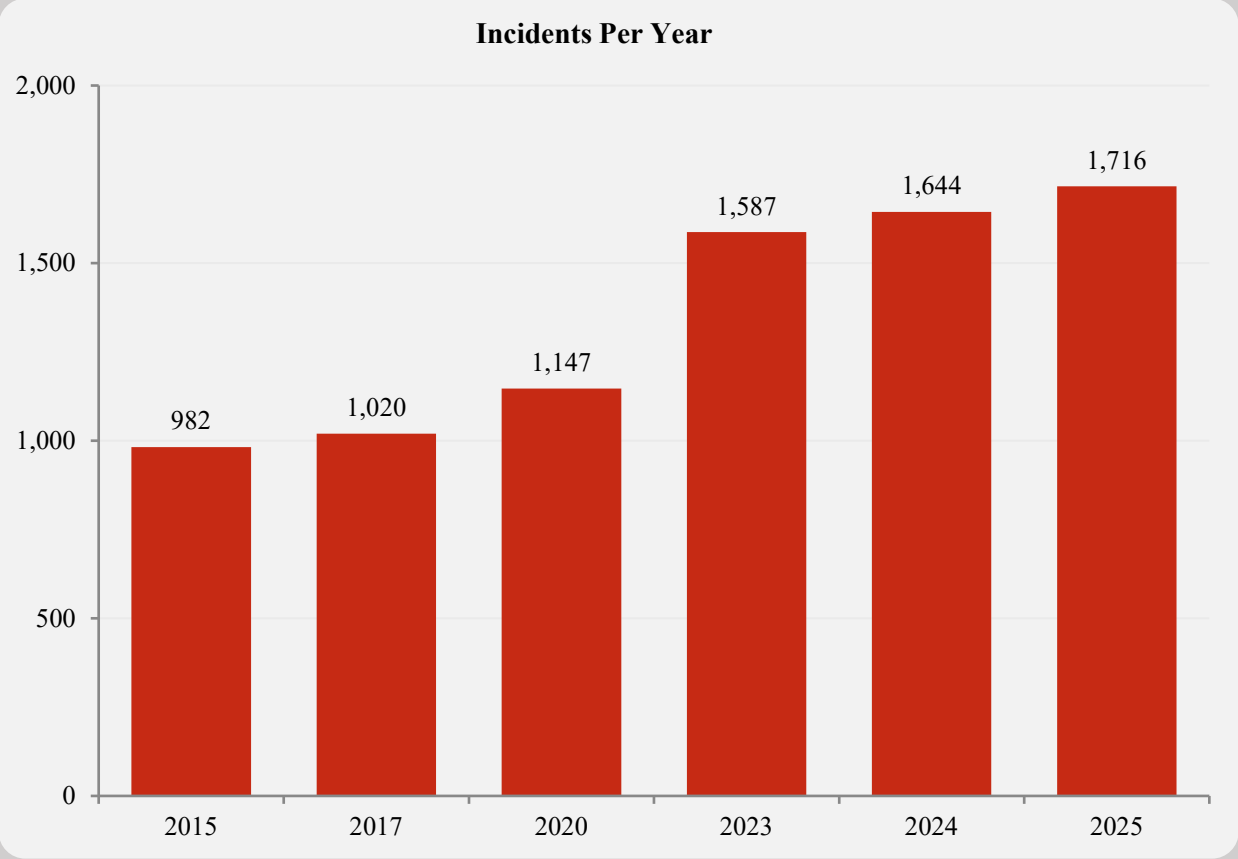
Since 4.85 mills is a renewal, the net annual increase to a property owner is \$87.50 per \$100,000 of market value (the 2.50 mill increase only). The \$176 figure on the ballot is the gross amount before state credits.

With the renewal, a homeowner already pays \$81.47 of that total. The only additional cost is the 2.50 increase.

WHY RENEWAL + INCREASE, NOT A REPLACEMENT

- A renewal preserves the rollback credits on the qualifying 3.00-mill portion of the existing levy. The State reimburses the district for that credit. The 1.85 mills from 2017 and the new 2.50 mills are non-qualifying.
- A completely new levy would eliminate those credits and assess the full amount at current valuations.
- Rollback benefits are expected to increase with Ohio's property tax relief efforts; the renewal structure keeps taxpayers eligible.

Service Demand: 2015–2025



+75%

Incident Response
982 (2015) to 1,716 (2025)

+84%

Population
11,861 (2015) to 21,846 (2025 DCRPC)

+162%

Overlapping Incidents
Simultaneous emergencies, since 2017

+180%

Inspection Demand
Since 2018



How HB920 Affects Levy Revenue

- Ohio's HB920 “reduction factor” holds a voted levy to the dollar amount voters originally approved.
- As existing property rises in value at reappraisal, the effective tax rate is reduced proportionally. New construction is excluded and does add revenue, but only at the reduced rate.
- The district receives no additional revenue from rising values on existing property.
- The district's last levy increase was approved in 2017. The 2022 issue was a renewal with no increase.

One operating levy. BST&G receives no general fund revenue from Berkshire Township, Sunbury, Trenton Township, or Galena under Ohio law governing joint fire districts.

4.85-MILL LEVY: VOTED VS. EFFECTIVE RATE

Voted



4.85 mills

Effective (2026)



2.52 mills

ANNUAL COST PER \$100,000 OF VALUE

\$124

2017



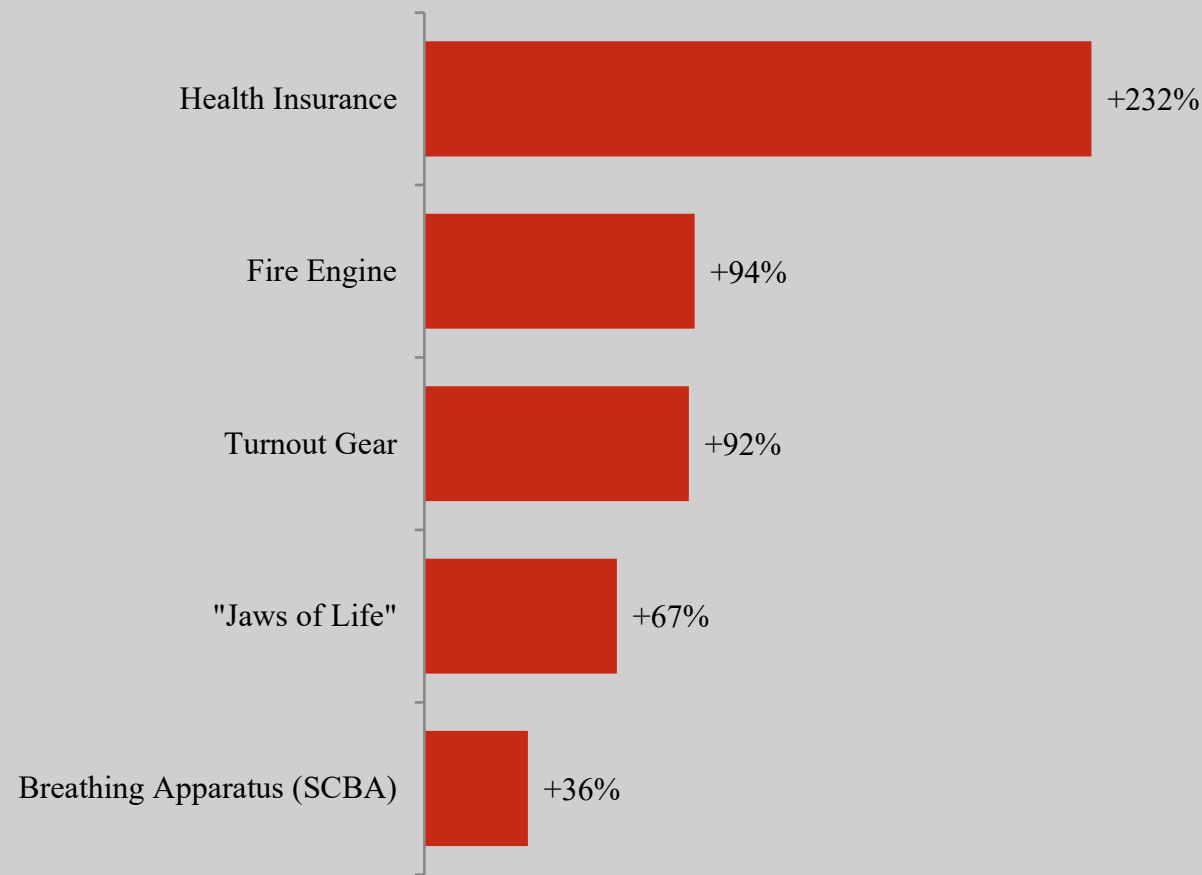
\$82

Today

Changes in Major Costs



Percent Change: 2018–2020 to 2025–2026



COST CATEGORY	2018–2020	2025–2026	CHANGE
Fire Engine	\$617,000	\$1,200,000	+94%
Health Insurance (total)*	\$110,124	\$594,157	+232%
Turnout Gear (per set)	\$1,950	\$3,750	+92%
Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$5,500	\$7,500	+36%
“Jaws of Life” (full set)	\$45,000	\$75,000	+67%

* Health insurance figure reflects a larger full-time roster as well as premium growth.

Station 352 and Staffing



2024 BOND · 0.78 MILLS

Construction Only

Paid to build Station 352. Bond funds cannot legally be used for personnel or operations.

OPERATING LEVY

Personnel & Operations

The funding source for staffing the station, including after the SAFER grant expires.

STATION 352 TIMELINE



Joint facility shared with Delaware County EMS (Medic 11).

STAFFING: 2020 VS. 2026

METRIC	2020	2026
Full-time staff	16	26 (+63%)
Part-time staff	20	13
Avg. full-time years of service	2.6 yrs	11.5 yrs
Avg. part-time stay before departure	—	1.4 yrs

- About 85% of the 2020 part-time roster has departed, most for full-time jobs elsewhere.
- The 2024 SAFER grant (\$2,042,478) funds six full-time firefighters for Station 352. The federal share declines and ends after three years.

Levy History and Grant Funding



HISTORY OF BST&G LEVY ACTIVITY

YEAR	ACTION	MILLS	COST / \$100K
2012	Renew 2m + Increase 1m	3.00	\$91.80
2017	Renew 3m + Increase 1.85m	4.85	\$124.00
2022	Renewal only, no increase	4.85	\$115.95
2026	Renew 4.85m + Increase 2.5m	7.35	\$176.00*

Separate funds. The 2024 bond (0.78 mills) funded Station 352 construction. Bond and levy funds are legally separate.

Governance. Elected Fire Board of Trustees with an independent Fiscal Officer.

*Reminder, \$176 is the gross amount before state credits; you pay \$81.47 today. With the 2.50 increase, you would pay about \$168.97.

\$2,516,223

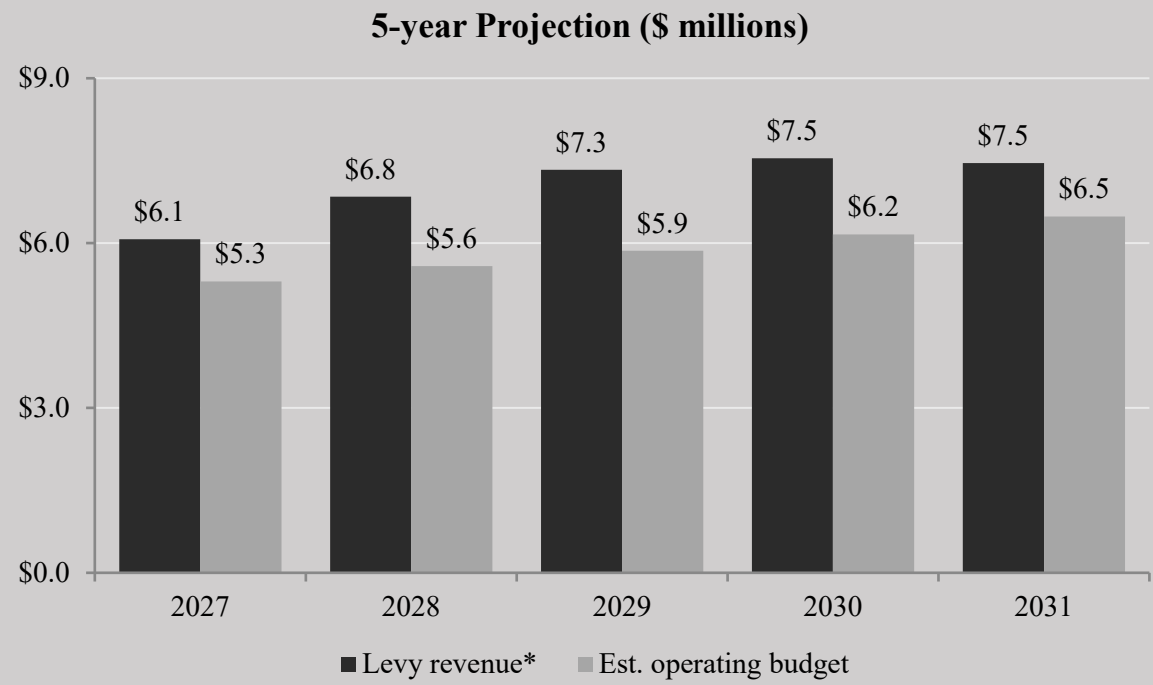
Competitive grant funding secured since 2019

GRANT	YEAR	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
SAFER	2024	Six full-time firefighters (Station 352)	\$2,042,478
AFG	2019	SCBA replacement & fill system	\$255,063
AFG	2021	Technical rescue equipment & training	\$152,850
BWC Exposure	2019	Diesel exhaust extraction	\$38,930
BWC Safety	2023	Gear extractor & drying cabinet	\$26,902



Identified Uses of Levy Revenue and Planning

-  **Continued Staffing: Station 352**
The 2024 bond funded construction only
-  **Secures: Six SAFER-Grant Firefighters**
When the 3-year federal grant expires
-  **Continued: NFPA-Compliant Staffing**
Across all three 24-hour shifts
-  **Capital Replacement**
Apparatus, Equipment, and PPE at current prices
-  **Possible ISO Rating Improvement**
We are due to evaluation. Inspections, prevention, response, staffing, facilities have all improved
-  **Preparation / Planning for Station 353**
We continue to closely monitor growth.



CARRY-OVER / CAPITAL REPLACEMENT

+ \$771K 2027	+ \$1.26M 2028	+ \$1.47M 2029	+ \$1.38M 2030	+ \$973K 2031
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* The levy generates the 2027 amount each year; 2028–2031 revenue figures include carry-over.

Estimated Annual Cost



COMMUNITY	AVG. HOME VALUE	YOU PAY NOW	PROPOSED TOTAL	TRUE INCREASE
Berkshire Twp.	\$531,000	\$433.35	\$897.98	+\$464.62
City of Sunbury	\$373,100	\$304.49	\$630.95	+\$326.46
Trenton Twp.	\$415,000	\$338.68	\$701.81	+\$363.13
Village of Galena	\$467,000	\$381.12	\$789.75	+\$408.62
District Average	≈\$450,000	\$366.62	\$760.37	+\$393.75

Owner-occupied figures, after state credits. Average home values from Delaware County community profiles. Figures are annual.

\$176

Total per \$100,000 on the ballot, before state credits

\$81.47

Currently pay per \$100,000

\$87.50

Net annual increase per \$100,000

\$32.81

Net monthly increase for a \$450,000 home

Delaware County Fire Department Comparison



Cost Per \$100,000 Rankings

#	DEPARTMENT	FULL RATE (mill)	COST / \$100K	STATIONS
1	Westerville Fire *	19.65	\$222	3
2	Harlem Township	7.50	\$219	1
3	Tri Township	6.40	\$204	2
4	Porter Kingston **	10.00	\$199	1
5	Concord Township	14.62	\$192	1
6	Fort Morrow	7.50	\$189	1
7	Liberty Township	8.00	\$186	2
8	Genoa Township	7.70	\$185	1
9	Washington Township *	14.95	\$176	5
9	BST&G PROPOSED LEVY	7.35	\$176	2
10 - 11	Orange Township **	9.00	\$172	2
11 - 12	Radnor Township	6.32	\$153	1
12 - 13	Elm Valley JFD	3.87	\$118	1
13 - 14	Berlin Township	5.93	\$101	1
14	BST&G CURRENT LEVY	4.85	\$82	2
15	Scioto Township	3.25	\$80	1

- *Westerville and Washington are for their Delaware County population only.
- **Porter Kingston and Orange Twp: Passed in May 2026, estimated cost.

BST&G TODAY

14th of 15

\$82 per \$100K · 4.85 mills

BST&G PROPOSED

9th of 15

\$176 per \$100K · 7.35 mills

Delaware County Auditor effective rates, tax year 2025 (collection year 2026).

ELECTION INFORMATION



Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Polls open 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

“A renewal of 4.85 mills and an increase of 2.50 mills for each \$1 of taxable value... for the benefit of Berkshire, Sunbury, Trenton and Galena Joint Fire District... that the county auditor estimates will collect \$6,071,628 annually, at a rate not exceeding 7.35 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$176 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, for 5 years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027.”

Questions?



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